Dear Parents,

Today, Glen Iris was visited by a V.I.P! Regional Director of Eastern Metropolitan Region, Dr. Michael De’Ath, visited to tour our school and discuss our programs with students and staff. Michael’s role entails leading the regional office responsible for Student Learning, Student Wellbeing, School Resources and Facilities across two hundred and fifty schools and numerous early childhood centres. Members of the Promotions Team welcomed Michael and showed him the facilities Glen Iris has to offer. They eagerly pointed out areas of interest and answered Michael’s questions. It was a pleasure to have Dr. De’Ath spend time in our school.

**STUDENT LEARNING, STUDENT WELLBEING AND ENGAGEMENT, STUDENT PATHWAYS AND TRANSITIONS SCHOOL REVIEW 2012**

In the last newsletter, I outlined the school’s program of review for 2012. We are very keen to engage all sectors of our school community to reflect on our achievements and develop future directions for improvement. Last week, a group of talented students shot a film to advertise the School Review process to the community. The film is currently being edited and will then be accessible on the school website. A Community Engagement Workshop for Parents will be conducted on Wednesday 21 March at 7:30pm in the Library. Keep this date free. Please see the flyer with today’s newsletter and stay tuned for the “movie”. An online survey will offer parents a further means of communicating their ideas.

**WORTH CONSIDERING**

Recently, several teachers and I attended a workshop on “Oral Language” with international expert, Carmel Crevola. Carmel is recognised for her extensive research in Australia, UK, America and Europe into how children of all ages develop effective oral communication and its influence on all areas of their learning. She reminded us of the importance of children experiencing a rich oral language environment in their formative years to develop effective receptive and expressive language skills. Until the age of about seven years, children are accelerating in their learning and as parents and educationalists we must capitalise on this stage. Some questions I considered whilst reflecting on Carmel’s presentation;

- Do we expect children to read and write before they can express ideas and opinions verbally?
- How do we know if children are comprehending the information we are delivering to children such as instructions, facts?
- Do we still immerse young children in stories, songs, nursery rhymes, skipping rhymes, poetry?

I suggest we not stop having high expectations of what children can and do learn, but also, continue to

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**March 2012**

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<td>Wednesday 7</td>
<td>Parent/Teacher Interviews</td>
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<td>Thursday 8</td>
<td>Incursion - Monash Science Centre Grs. 3 &amp; 4</td>
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<td>Friday 9</td>
<td>Incursion - Monash Science Centre Grs. 3 &amp; 4</td>
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<td>Tuesday 20</td>
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<td>Wednesday 21</td>
<td>School Council</td>
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<td>Friday 30</td>
<td>Free Dress Day</td>
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<td>Last Day Term 1, 2.30pm dismissal</td>
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**April 2012**

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<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 16</td>
<td>First Day of Term 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 25</td>
<td>Anzac Day - public holiday</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>April - Friday 4 May</td>
<td>Grs. 5 &amp; 6 Camp</td>
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ensure we offer the important rich environment of oral language that supports young learners to become literate. Crevola would say that expert adult input and role modelling at home and school are critical for this to occur.

ASHBURTON FESTIVAL
On Sunday 26 February, some of our performance groups performed at the Ashburton Festival. Two rock bands, The Rock Zombies and JTT, and the Grade 3 – 6 Choir delighted the audience with their enthusiastic and well rehearsed performances. The groups demonstrated the breadth of the music opportunities in the school and drew admiration from parents, teachers and the wider community. Congratulations to the girls and boys for their great work and thanks to Band Teacher, Danniel Smith, and Choir Teacher, Lucy Gargano, for their efforts to prepare the children so thoroughly.

WORKING BEE
Unfortunately, the working bee scheduled for last Saturday had to be postponed due to inclement weather. An alternate date will be announced shortly. Thank you to the many parents who had volunteered to attend and to Ilias Mastoris, Buildings and Environment Coordinator, who planned the event.

SCHOOL CARPARK
Thank you to the families who are assisting us to reinforce student safety by not walking through the school car park. I have heard some children reminding the adults that we don’t use the area as a thoroughfare. Well done boys and girls!

Regards
Meredith Carracher

Want Healthier and Safer School Travel Options for your Kids?

Glen Iris Primary will be participating in a Boroondara Council supported program to establish a sustainable school travel plan. Our aim is to encourage and increase healthy travel to and from school whilst improving traffic congestion around the school at peak times.

There is increasing concern around traffic and parking at the school during drop off and pick up times. A travel plan will enable GIPS to introduce and support healthier modes of transport to and from school and to encourage safe practices in these modes of transport. It will also improve traffic safety around the school.

Several other schools in our area have already commenced their travel plans with great success. What are some of them doing? Establishing:

- safe walking routes,
- walking school bus,
- walking/cycling buddy systems, and frequent rider programs.

Many of us participated in a travel survey at the end of 2011. 78% of kids who responded want to take active travel to school and said:

“It makes me feel responsible”
“I love the fresh air!”
“It’s fun to walk and talk with friends.”
“It’s good for the environment, good for fitness and very fun!”

To get the plan underway we need several parents to volunteer their time and effort and establish a group which will consult, plan and activate the program for GIPS. Ideally we would like to have parents on the group representing each grade at the school so that we can address travel to/from school for all age groups.

If children’s health and safety is important to you then please let Meredith Carracher know you would like to be involved by Wednesday 14 March.

Peta Coote
A big thanks to all of the wonderful parents who came along to our first Parents Association meeting in February. I am very happy to announce that all positions on the committee other than that of the Vice President have now been filled. As always, anyone who is part of the GIPS school community is more than welcome to come along to our meetings and have a say or be involved in what we are doing as a group.

Thanks to Kylie Carnegie for organizing our first fundraiser for the year, our Peppermint Parade headband fundraiser. Figures yet to come, but a great way to start the year.

If anyone has an idea they would like to share but is unable to come to our meetings, please feel free to call me.

Our next meeting will be held on Tuesday 13 March at 9am in the Multipurpose Room. Hope to see you there.

Liz Fowler, President
0430 980 418

COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD
Copies of this information are available at the office:

- Malvern District Auskick - Registration Day on Sat 17 March 9.00am - 11.30am at Moira St, East Malvern. Register online at www.aflauskick.com.au, selecting Malvern District Auskick as your centre.
- Register for your local “Come and Try” Rugby Program - Boroondara RUFC (Redbacks) for ages 5 - 12. For more information ph. 0400 814 069 or visit www.redbacksrugby.com.au
- “Party Fare” - Children’s party catering - all types of cakes, impressive morning teas and special events. Call Sonia to place orders 0407 390 700 or visit www.partyfare.com.au
- Free Parent Information Night - “How so I raise a Resilient Child?” on Weds 21 March at Brighton Grammar. Bookings: 9596 8814 or info@shineacademy.com.au (Gold coin to the Fred Hollows Foundation)
- Fairy & Funky Dancing - Free Open Day Sunday 15 April, 1109a Glen Huntly Rd, Glen Huntly. Ph.0423 095 590 or visit www.glitterytappingwonderland.com
- Youth Bands Program - calling all young musicians, we invite all brass, woodwind and percussion players to play with us in The John Mallinson Youth Band or the Wilf Dyason Wind Ensemble every Saturday afternoon at the

Mt.Waverley Secondary College. Visit the website www.ybp.org.au
- Stage Left Holiday Theatre Workshops for 4 - 16 yr olds. April 9 - 13 East Malvern, Weekly Term Classes 2012 - Act Sing Dance. Ph. 1300 369 443 or visit www.stageleft.com.au
- Art 'scool for Kids - Art Classes for Children with Ms Terry Taylor, Term 2 Art Classes - Glen Iris Ph.9885 1195 / 0400 272 335
- STS Student Exchange - looking for host families willing to welcome an STS exchange student into their family. Ph.1800 263 964 or visit the website www.sts-education.com.au
- homevisitingdoctor.com.au - visit the website to find out about home visits every day when GPs are closed. This is a bulk billing service. Website: www.homevisitingdoctor.com.au

NOTE: Advertisements are placed according to relevance and interest to the school community and are not a reflection of the school’s interest or beliefs.

FAMILY DETAILS
Have any of your family details changed recently? Can’t remember? Don’t worry we all have those moments. Call in to the School Office or give us a ring if you would like to check the information we have on file. If you have changed address, phone nos. (inc. mobiles), emergency contact details, we’re even interested in email addresses - ring, call in to the Office or send a note requesting a “Change of Student Information” form be sent home with your child. It is very important to keep your details up-to-date. Kaye, Liz, Sue and Rose - GIPS Office Staff

PSW PRIMARY SCHOOL WEAR
OPENING HOURS DURING MARCH & APRIL 2012

PSW Retail Stores will be closed during the following days over March and April for the public holidays.
- Labour Day Monday 12 March
- Friday 6 April - Monday 9 April
- Wednesday 25 April (Anzac Day)

Please note that the Uniform Shop will be open at school for its usual Opening Hours:
Mondays 8.30am - 10.00am
Fridays 3.00pm - 4.00pm
To acknowledge the contribution and spirit of the work undertaken by school crossing supervisors throughout Victoria an award will be given to a selected school crossing supervisor for their commitment and dedication to the supervision of school crossings.

The recipient of the award should model enthusiasm and successful outcomes.

This award is open to all school crossing supervisors employed in this role stationed at a permanent crossing or a relief school crossing supervisor.

Nominations for the award must be employed as a school crossing supervisor at any Victorian Council who should demonstrate:

- Professional demeanour and presentation (uniform and equipment)
- Working knowledge of road rules relating to school crossings
- Welcoming, caring, supportive and encouraging to all users of the school crossing
- Helpful – Informative and clear on correct use of the crossing
- Involvement in the school community
- Attendance – no time off (other than illness)
- Punctuality

Municipalities and members of the community will be invited to forward nominations for the award. Nominations will close on Friday 30th March 2012.

**Nomination Form**

Name of Nominated person …………………………………………
Municipality they are employed by………………………………
School ……………………………………………………………
Person/Organisation nominating………………………………
Contact email……………………………………………………
Contact phone number…………………………………………
Contact address…………………………………………………

The following template must be used for nominations. In 25 words or more please tell us:

Why you believe the nominated person should be awarded the School Crossings Victoria “School Crossing Supervisor of the Year” award.
It's not okay to be away ... nor to be late to school

When kids miss school, not only is their academic progress impeded, forcing them to catch up on missed work (which some never do), they often miss important interactions with their peers which can compound issues of social isolation and low self-esteem.

One of the most important things you can do to ensure your child has a bright future is to make sure he or she goes to school every day—and gets there on time.

It sounds simple, but it's true.

The correlation between school attendance and children's achievement levels is well-established. The more time kids spend at school, the more likely they are to experience school success.

Conversely, according to a report from the Victorian Auditor General, students who are regularly absent from school are at the greatest risk of dropping out of school early, and of experiencing long-term unemployment.

When kids miss school, not only is their academic progress impeded, forcing them to catch up on missed work (which some never do), they often miss important interactions with their peers which can compound issues of social isolation and low self-esteem. Also, many teachers tell me, it's often the kids who can best afford to take time off school who are most likely to be serial absentees.

Of course, most people know this intuitively, yet school absenteeism is a huge problem in Australian schools—and much of it is parent-condoned.

It's hard to get an accurate picture across the country but it would appear that Australian students miss an average of between 12 and 15 days per school year, with parent-condoned absenteeism highest among young primary-aged children.

That adds up to a year's lost schooling over the school-life of a child.

In today's highly competitive world, this rate of absenteeism is alarming, putting our kids at a distinct disadvantage.

That's not a reason to be away!

It's now commonplace for children to stay away from school for reasons that would have been unheard of just twenty years ago. These include staying away to celebrate their own or a sibling's birthday; being absent because they stayed up too late watching television; going shopping for clothes; an extended long weekend and kids not wanting to take part in a sports day or special school event.

This type of absenteeism sends a strong message to kids that parents don't really value learning or their children's school experiences.

Australian kids only spend 15% of their total time at school. They spend more time asleep than they do at school. So we need to maximise every day to get full value. That means turning up to school every day on time.

As a Parent:

- Commit to sending kids to school every day.
- Make sure kids arrive at school and class on time.
- Inform the school when they are away, sending medical certificates and other evidence of genuine absence.
- Consider catching-up on missed work.
- Make kids who are away stay in their bedroom – that is where ill kids should be.

Being late is not okay either

Missing a few minutes each day may not seem like a big deal but your child may be missing more than you realise if he or she is continually late.

Current research shows that mornings for most children are the most productive time of the day, with 10.00am the peak period for productivity. When children arrive late and take time to settle as they inevitably do, valuable learning time is lost.

It takes strong parenting...

As a parent myself I know how persuasive children of all ages can be when it comes to taking a day off school. It takes a strong will to resist the persistent pressure that kids can bring to bear, particularly if they play the guilt card with comments such as “It's not fair that I have to go school today because Aunty is coming to visit!”

Nice try. But the answer should be “No”.

As parents we need to make a commitment that our kids make the most of their precious time at school. That means that we send them to school every day, on time and ready to make the most of the school day.

Of course, there will be times, such as illness or genuinely extenuating family circumstances, when kids should be away. But these need to be a rarity rather than the norm.

It's reassuring to know that you increase their chances of future success just by making sure they turn up to school every day. And of course regular school attendance also helps kids prepare for the workforce, where it will be expected that they turn up each day work-ready. The real world is unforgiving of those who stay away with NO EXCUSE.
TODAY’S NOTICES

- Special Lunch Helper Request (white, eldest, reply slip)
- Special Lunch Menu (yellow, eldest)
- Year of Review Invitation (eldest, reply slip)

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**PLACES AVAILABLE**
To apply or for more information, please email
Boroondara Central Enrolments on call 03 9278 4444
For more information or to visit Summerhill Park Kindergarten,
please call 9889 1543 or visit summerhillparkkindergarten.org.au

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2012 Blue Group Session Days &amp; Times</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Monday</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.30pm — 4pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Wednesday</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>8.30am — 3pm</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Friday</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.30am — 12.30pm</td>
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Where we are located: 46 Andrew Crescent, Glen Iris

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Glen Iris Primary School thanks our sponsors for their support.
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<th>2013 TERM DATES</th>
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<td>30 January to 28 March</td>
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<td><strong>Term 2</strong></td>
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<td>16 April to 29 June</td>
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<td><strong>Term 3</strong></td>
<td><strong>Term 3</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Term 4</strong></td>
<td><strong>Term 4</strong></td>
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<td>8 October to 21 December</td>
<td>7 October to 20 December</td>
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